

TOPIC Gadow-Rosow Air Force Training Field near Schweinrich

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. From 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on 27 December 1951, individual bombing was practiced at the Gadow-Rosow training field by jet bombers flying at an altitude of about 2,000 meters. On 14, 15 and 16 February 1952, live bombs were dropped from jet bombers. On 15 February, three detonations were heard in short succession. Individual bomb release observed at the field was practiced from an altitude of 3,000 to 4,000 meters. The individual planes approached at intervals of about 10 minutes. The practices would begin about 10:30 a.m. and end about 4 p.m.
2. Individual bombing was practiced between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 5 March from aircraft flying at the altitude of about 3,000 meters. Bombs were released at 11:15, 11:29 a.m., 12:35, 1:35 and 1:45 p.m. Bombing was also practiced on 6 March. In the morning, most of the bombs were dropped from individual planes; yet bombs were usually dropped from aircraft flying in formation in the afternoon. Formations of 3, 6, 7 and 9 planes were observed, the distance and interval between the individual aircraft of the first formation being one aircraft length. The group of six planes flew in two wedge formation. Regarding the formation of seven planes, 3 flew in wedge formation, while the 4 remaining craft followed in echelon. The nine aircraft flew in squadron wedge formation of flight wedges, the distance and interval between the individual flight wedges being three aircraft lengths and wing spans respectively. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 7 March, individual bombing was practiced. A formation of nine aircraft was also observed.
3. Individual bombing was again practiced on 8 March. Only individual flights were observed on 13, 14 and 20 March. Night flying was also conducted. At 8 p.m. on one of these days the release of aircraft flares was observed in the sky. Two columns of fire rising from the ground were also seen. However, no detonations were heard. Two rotating searchlights sending identification signals were in operation near the air force training field. Upon a light signal given from the ground, the aircraft switched on a landing light. Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. during the period from 17 through 21 March, bombing was practiced usually by individual aircraft. During the period from 23 through 29 March, individual jet bombers were observed on only two or three days. No detonations were heard.
4. On the morning of 5 April, the noise of individual aircraft, apparently jet aircraft, flying above the cloud ceiling was heard. At 8:10 a.m. on 9 April, a formation of 24 swept-back jet fighters, each carrying a bomb

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under each wing, was observed approaching the field. Detonations were heard. At 11:20 a.m. a formation of 12 swept-back jet fighters was seen. Many swept-back jet planes were observed on 10 April. The noise of detonations was heard. Bombing by jet bombers was practiced between 8 and 11 p.m. on 14 April.

5. On 11 April, 8 tanks, 10 aircraft and 4 gun dummies were observed at the training field. Many bomb craters were seen near the dummies. \*

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Comment.

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. The report gives a survey of the bombing practices at this field.

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The jet bombers observed probably were aircraft of the northern bomber division which practiced bombing at this field last year. It appears noteworthy that MiG-15s were observed dropping bombs on 9 and 10 April. This is the first positive information that the fighter units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army are being trained to bomb. The MiG-15s observed are believed to have belonged to the fighter regiments in Laerz or Wittstock.

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